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Rural District of Louth

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

The Year 1951.

PRINTED BY
T. E. WIGGEN AND SON, LTD.
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To the Chairman and Members of the Louth Rural District Council.

I have pleasure once again presenting my Annual Report, compiled according to the usual formulæ, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District.

Making mention first of the favourable points about the vital statistics, both the birth and the general death rates were better than the corresponding national rates and by comparison with the local rates of the previous year. The birth rate was slightly higher at 17 than last year and was 1.5 points above the national rate for this year. The general death rate, besides being lower than the national, was the lowest local figure for the past five years. The estimated population showed an increase of 170 for the year. Less gratifying were the figures pertaining to still births and Infant deaths under one year. The former were three above the average number occurring in the district in the past ten years as well as comparing unfavourably with the current national rate. The same is true of the Infant deaths, totalling 16, which is a figure that occurred once only in our records of the past ten years.

It is generally agreed that the control of both these problems is influenced by the extent of the care and supervision available, and availed of, for maternal cases and for children in the first year of life, and from which cannot be excluded the economic factor that may require the expectant mother to be a wage earner. Though it is only one of factors involved, it was very satisfactory to note the County Council had arranged towards the end of the year to open two additional Welfare Centres within the district, and they are prepared to extend the number where necessary when staff difficulties allowed.

Apart from the tragedy of seeing an entry of 16 under the O/1 year death column, the numbers in the other groupings compensated by being fewer than usual, to such extent that the percentage of deaths under the age of 65 years was 26 compared with 27 in the previous year. The deaths of persons 75 years and over represented half the total. It was pleasing to note also that the Cancer deaths were the lowest for eight years and the single death from tuberculosis set up a record which I fear will long remain in our annals as such.

Facts and comments about the infectious diseases and the extent of the prophylactic measures, are set out in the body of the report. The improvement in the diphtheria immunisation numbers compared with our figures for the more recent years will be noted, though in the baby group they are still far below

the level which would inspire complacency. This is the sixth successive year when there has not been a notification of diphtheria which might make the cynic remark on the mixed effect this could have on the prophylaxis campaign.

In the field of sanitation and matters affecting environmental health, the recent rate of progress was maintained in laying water mains, which resulted in extension supplies to nine additional villages and 186 house connections to bring the total of villages so serviced to 24. The sewerage position was very much out of step in this progressive march, but the Council agreed to sponsor a cesspool emptying service which should go some way towards reducing problems associated with internal water supplies without satisfactory means of waste disposal.

The total number of 42 new house completions by the Council and private licence was the lowest for the past four years but the subsequent easing of strictures will probably produce more satisfying future results. Casual repair work, found necessary on inspections, received satisfactory attention and only in a few cases had the aid of Statutory Powers to be enlisted before matters were put right.

All matters affecting food hygiene were given the share of attention which their importance merited. Routine inspections were concerned with the efforts to bring buildings and their amenities up to something like modern standards, and reliance was placed on the educational value of visits rather than on coercive action to achieve results which aimed at raising the hygienic level of production. Following so soon after the adoption of the Model Byelaws this directive seemed the sensible initial approach to gain the goodwill and harmonious co-operation of Traders, and the results justified the procedure.

I am pleased to record the valued assistance and happy co-operation that are always forthcoming from Mr. Shone and his staff, who can fully claim a successful and creditable year's results. I am grateful also to Mr. Shone for supplying me with all the basic information concerned with the work in his department which forms part of this report.

It is not part of a conventional formula which prompts me to express a very sincere thanks to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Members of the Public Health Committee for their helpful co-operation which both encourages and recompenses the staff effort.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. KERRIGAN,

Louth: July 1952.

Medical Officer of Health

LOUTH RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions for the Year 1951.

Public Health Officers :

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. KERRIGAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

S. SHONE, A.R., San.I.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Asst. Surveyor :

P. CHILDS, A.R., San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

W. W. SUMMERS

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

K. THORNTON.

SECTION A

Social Conditions and General Statistics.

Area of Rural District in acres	...	...	153,129
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population			18,600
Density of population per acre	...	...	0.12
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1951	...	...	5,368
Rateable value of Inhabited Houses	...	...	£35,589
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£241

VITAL STATISTICS.

(Note—Figures in brackets show corresponding rates for
England and Wales).

Births

(a)	LIVE		Total	Male	Female
	Legitimate	...	302	165	137
	Illegitimate	...	14	8	6
			<hr/> 316	<hr/> 173	<hr/> 143
(b)	STILL				
	Legitimate	...	10	7	3
	Illegitimate	...	<hr/> —	<hr/> —	<hr/> —
			<hr/> 10	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 3

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	17	
Standardised Birth Rate adjusted by comparability factor 1.15	19.5	(15.5)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	0.54	(0.36)

Deaths	Total	Male	Female
	220	115	105

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	11.83		
Death Rate standardised by adjustment with comparability factor 0.83	9.82	(12.5)	
Deaths from maternal causes	1		

Deaths of Infants under one year :

	Total	Male	Female
	16	9	7
Death Rate per 1,000 live births	50.6	(29.6)	

Deaths of Infants under one month :

	Total	Male	Female
	10	6	4

Causes of deaths in children under one year and ages :

	Male	Female
Prematurity ...	18 hours	1 day
	19 hours	
	3 days	
	3 weeks	
Congenital Malformation	2 days	5 hours
	6 days	
	12 weeks	
Purulent Bronchitis	—	6 months
Intussusception	5 months	—
Accidental Inhalation of Vomit	3 months	1 week
		4 months
Acute Coryzal Infection and heart Failure		2 weeks
		7 months

Ages at Death

Ages in Years	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75+	Total
Deaths	16	3	1	1	8	4	10	15	53	109	220

Cancer Deaths

Ages in Years	Under 40	40/45	45/50	50/55	55/60	60/65	65/70	70/75	75+	Total
Case Rate	1	—	1	2	3	1	7	4	8	27

Causes of Cancer Deaths :

	Males	Females
Stomach	1	5
Lung	—	1
Breast	—	2
Uterus	—	2
Alimentary System	4	7
Prostrate	2	—
Bladder	—	1
Brain	1	—
Generalised	—	1
	8	19

Causes of Death

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—
2. Cancer of Stomach ...	1	5
3. Cancer of Lung, Bronchus ...	—	1
4. Cancer of Breast ...	—	2
5. Cancer of Uterus ...	—	2
6. Cancer of all other sites ...	7	9
7. Leukaemia and Aleukaemia ...	1	—
8. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	16
9. Coronary disease, angina ...	11	6
10. Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	—
11. Other heart disease ..	25	20
12. Other Circulatory Disease ...	8	2
13. Influenza ...	—	1
14. Pneumonia ...	4	10
15. Bronchitis ...	6	4
16. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	2
17. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	1
18. Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	—	2
19. Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	6	—
20. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	1
21. Congenital Malformations ...	2	1
22. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	15
23. Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	1	—
24. All other accidents ...	10	5
25. Suicide ...	1	—
Totals ...	115	105

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services of the Area

Laboratory Facilities.

The very satisfactory service provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln, continued to be availed of as in previous years by which 612 samples and specimens out of the total of 628 examined were done by this laboratory without charge to the Council. The samples comprised ice cream, milk, and water examinations—other than chemical analyses—and specimens concerned with the investigation of infectious diseases.

1. Ambulance Facilities.

2. Nursing in the Home.

3. Treatment Centres, Clinics and Hospitals.

These health service provisions are not administered by our Council, but it is pleasing to note the extension of Infant Welfare Centres within the district to supplement those in towns outside the area which also serve the residents of the adjoining Rural District. The list of Infant Welfare Centres within the district and the times of the clinics are as follows :—

Centre	Date and Time	Doctor Attends
Binbrook	Weekly, Tuesdays 2-30—4-30 p.m.	1st and 3rd Tuesdays
North Somercotes	Weekly, Friday 10—12 a.m.	1st and 3rd Fridays
Tetney	2nd and 4th. Fridays 2—4 p.m.	2nd Friday
Holton-le-Clay	2nd and 4th. Wednesdays 10—12 a.m.	2nd and 4th Wednesdays

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.

Water Supply.

During the year, progress in the laying of water mains resulted in supplies to nine additional villages with 186 properties connected. Details of the completed village public supplies at the end of the year are as follows :—

Source of Supply	Village	No. of houses in parish	No. of houses connected to mains
Council Bore (1) Council Bore	Binbrook	267	205
„ extension	Ludford	132	82
„ extension	Donington-on-Bain	114	67
„ extension	Kelstern	33	14
„ extension	Burgh-on-Bain	45	23
„ extension	South Willingham	58	43
Council Bore (2)	Grimoldby	115	140 + 80 R.A.F.
„ „	Manby	33	
„ „	South Cockerington	55	
Grimsby, Clee- thorpes & District Water Board	Holton-le-Clay	220	191
	Tetney	282	166
	North Thoresby	230	191
	Grainsby	25	11
	Waithe	13	10
	Fulstow	126	76
	Marshchapel	185	74
	North Cotes	92	33
	Grainthorpe	172	72
	Conisholme	28	3
Mablethorpe and Sutton U.D.C.	Maltby-le-Marsh	80	45
	Hannah	20	4
	Beesby	34	19
	Saleby	42	17
Louth M.B.	Stewton	23	9

In addition private piped supplies are available in the following parishes—the figures given regarding the house connections are approximations in some instances.

Parishes	Total Houses	Individual house connections
Hainton	65	40
Withcall	43	42
South Elkington	92	65
North Elkington	17	13
Welton-le-Wold (2 supplies)	53	22

Samples examinations results.

Source	Grades				Faecal Pollution
	1	2	3	4	
Public supplies	162	21	15	7	1
Private supplies	Satisfactory	Doubtful	Unsatisfactory	Faecal Pollution	
(a) Village piped supplies	46	23	10	25	
(b) Single households	26	6	10	27	
(c) Caravan Sites	4	2	4	—	

Remarks on samples results :

Inclusive of 16 chemical analyses, 405 water samples were examined altogether. Regarding the public supply results, the single entry under column five came from a communal standpipe previous to house connections being made. The numbers in Grade 4 were mainly from Grimoldby at the time work was proceeding at the bore, and in other cases, the results indicated the need for flushing of mains terminals.

The village piped private supplies during the year gave reasons for concern, as the sample results show. The principal cause of the trouble was laxity in the chlorination procedure by those responsible during the harvest season. Towards the end of the year the position improved all round and suitable attention was given to recommendations.

In the case of private households, many of which were farm properties, the bulk were taken at request of the owners with a view to investigating means of improving the supply where

indicated. The unsatisfactory sample results from privately controlled summer camp sites occurred during the preliminary investigation into suitable supply sources.

Closets and Drains.

Number of houses with privy vaults in the district	891
Number of houses with pail closets in the district.	2814
Number of houses with water closets in the district	1834
Number of water closets substituted for dry receptacles	22
Repairs reported to water closets and pail closets	30
Drains examined, tested, exposed etc.	152
Drains unstopped, repaired etc.	49

Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works.

The long anticipated start of the work of sewer laying in Binbrook village represented the only progress in activities of this nature. By the end of the year some 2,000 yards of sewer were laid for connection with the existing disposal works serving the R.A.F. Station in the adjoining Rural District.

The two Sewage Disposal works at Binbrook and Manby, for which the Council is responsible, were reported in satisfactory condition. Seven chemical analyses of the sewage effluent—four from Binbrook works and three from Manby—taken at suitable intervals were reported by the Analyst as conforming to accepted standards. Three additional analyses carried out of the effluent from the Ludford disposal works which the Council considered taking over from the Air Ministry, were also satisfactory in content.

At the Manby works, the electrically operated sludge pumps were completed and working to good effect and a scheme for reorganising the sludge pumping and drying at the Binbrook works was under consideration.

Cesspool Emptying.

Towards the end of the year the Council, in the course of their deliberations on the question of providing an officially sponsored cesspool emptying service for the district, asked the Chief Sanitary Inspector to provide certain information to guide them in the practical aspects of the project. In his report, the Inspector estimated there were 1,620 cesspools and septic tanks all of which provided not only cleansing difficulties for the individual owners but presented a serious problem for the Council on account of the widespread pollution of dykes and waterways caused by the foul overflows from these neglected constructions.

The Council finally decided for the benefit of private householders, its application to Council housing sites, and as a means of improving this aspect of district sanitation which would be acutely affected by the extensive district water schemes to give urgent sanction to the proposal at such service charges as would be later determined.

Refuse Collection.

As was stated in my report of last year, this service has now about reached the maximum point of practical expansion. During the year two extra villages were included to make a total of 63 villages now having household refuse collected by the two Council freighters at fortnightly intervals.

There are 3,195 houses using dustbins and the refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping in six tips at vantage points in the district.

Disinfection.

Rooms disinfected	...	...	24
(a) Ordinary Infectious Disease	...	...	15
(b) Tuberculosis	...	..	9
Rooms stripped and cleansed	...	...	Nil
Number of premises disinfested	...	...	15

Nuisances.

Total number of nuisances during the year ;—

(a) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	...	...	141
(b) Reported to Council:			
(1) Statutory Notice issued	...	...	6
(2) Statutory Notice not issued	...	...	3

Knackers Yards.

Number licensed	...	...	5
Number of inspections	...	...	15
Defects remedied	...	...	2

Rats and Mice Destruction.

Number of Rodent Operatives employed	...	...	1
Number of premises treated :—			
(a) dwelling houses	...	...	131
(b) Other premises	...	...	96

Shops Acts, 1950.

(a) Number of shops inspected	...	...	103
(b) Contraventions remedied	...	...	7

FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	25	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	78	85	Nil	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	99	110	Nil	Nil

2. Defects found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	5	5	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation	4	4	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	Nil
Totals	11	11	Nil

3 Outwork.

Nature of work	No of outworkers from returns submitted	Contraventions
Making wearing apparel	2	Nil
Totals	2	Nil

SECTION D

Housing

Total number of new Houses erected during the year	42
(1) By the Council	32
(2) By Private Licence	10
In addition, A.M.W.D. houses erected at R.A.F. Station, Manby, were	100

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	188
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	296
(2)	Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	103

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	98
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a)	by owners	4
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	1
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses subject to undertakings: Voluntary Agreements	6
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
(e)	Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936— Part IV— Overcrowding.

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at ths end of the year	...	...	1
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	1
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	10½
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	4
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	3
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	23
(d)		Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	...	...	Nil

5. Housing Act, 1949.

(a)	Number of applications for grants received	...	2
(b)	Number of grants made	...	2
(c)	Number of applications for grants made by Local Authority	...	Nil

6. Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.

(a)	Number of site licences	...	2
(b)	Number of individual licences	...	32
(c)	Number inspected during the year :		
	(1) Sites	...	14
	(2) Dwellings	...	91
(d)	Number of contraventions remedied	...	18

Encampment. (Squatters' Huts).

The number of families housed in these camps at the end of the year was 24—two less than the previous year. These were made up of 14 at Louth Park, 9 at Holton-le-Clay, and 1 at Ludford.

Additional Information.

The number and situation of the year's completed Council Houses were as follows :

Saltfleetby St. Peter	}	4 each
Hainton		
Hannah		
Gayton-le-Marsh		
Beesby		
Alvingham		
Tetney	6	
Ludborough	2	

This brought the total number of Council Houses in the District up to 196 distributed over 31 parishes.

Repairs.

It will be remarked that out of the 103 dwellings found in need of repairs, 98 were carried out by informal action and statutory powers required to be enforced before the remaining five were rendered fit. The type of repairs, of course, varied considerably and is difficult to group. They included such major work as re-roofing, the installation of internal fittings such as cooking ranges, and the overhauling of drainage systems, but the more casual repairs to internal fabrics and to water spouts and pipes called for the most attention.

While no official representations were made under the Acts regarding demolition of substandard dwellings, voluntary agreement was given by owners in six cases to cease using the houses for human habitation and three of the houses were subsequently demolished by the owners.

Two sites only, near the coast, for accommodating two-wheeler trailer caravans were licensed. The maximum numbers of vehicles permitted on these sites were 50 and 36 which were within the prescribed standards. There were 32 licences granted to station individual trailer caravans on land in various parts of the district, which amounted to 12 more than the previous year and 22 more than 1949. The present means of controlling this increasingly popular form of living rests much more with the Planning than the Public Health Committee because of the ease of satisfying the conditions necessary to conform to existing P.H. regulations.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Supervisory visits were regularly made to premises producing or selling foodstuffs intended for human consumption. In a rural district such as this we are apt to find the old family type of business carried on in premises which, by reason of lay out and sanitary limitations, present more difficulty than the corresponding urban premises to bring them up to anything like model standards. In spite of such problems, it was happily unusual not to meet with friendly co-operation in carrying out recommendations that dealt with practical essentials. In pursuance of the efforts to implement the points of the Model Byelaws which the Council adopted at the end of the previous year, the inspectors' visits were mainly educational, in the sense of instructions to raise the particular and general standards of hygiene, but attention was paid to other matters, including the covering of displayed foodstuffs whether in shops or in mobile vehicles. No action under statutory powers required to be taken in the initial period on account of the degree of co-operation forthcoming, but where the satisfactory response is lacking the inspectors will not be slow to adopt more stringent measures. The details of attention given to supervision of foodstuffs are set out below.

Bakehouses.

Number of bakehouses	...	...	...	13
Number of inspections	...	...	...	50
Number of contraventions	...	...	...	7
Number of contraventions remedied	..	...	...	6

A fault found in about three instances was the lack of space to cope with a trade that had expanded far beyond the limits for which the buildings were originally constructed. Detailed inspection with the Chief Sanitary Inspector showed satisfactory attention to the ritual of lime washing and the use of the scrubbing brush, though this was offset here and there by some rather glaring carelessness. Due attention was given to recommendations concerned with building alterations and repairs, the prevention of infestation by flies and rodents, and general matters of hygiene. It can be said, apart from one or two exceptions, that the buildings and equipment were found clean and the work satisfactorily conducted, which reflected creditably on the owners and the patient efforts of the sanitary inspectors.

Making up Rooms.

There are five of these registered in the district concerned with the making of sausages, meat pies and such comestibles as part of butchers' trading. 18 visits were paid and recommendations were carried out as required in three particular cases.

Slaughter Houses.

None in the district except one for horse slaughter but the flesh not sold for human consumption.

Milk.

Number of producer-retailers	...	...	54
Number of distributors on register	...	...	26

The producer-retailers consist of 5 T.T., 2 Accredited and the remainder non-designated, but the great majority retail only a small amount of raw milk from the farm for the convenience of a few customers rather than for business motives.

The register of distributors shows the following type of retail:—

Sterilized 19 ; Pasteurised and Sterilized 2 ; T.T. Pasteurised 3 ; Pasteurised and T.T. (raw) 1 ; Non-designated 1.

These figures do not indicate the relative quantities of the different types of milk sold—a matter about which there is no reliable information. As the result of enquiries from known suppliers, it would appear that the quantities of ordinary raw milk sold in the villages were negligible. Even in the isolated places where a perquisite or other supply from the farm was not available the family obtained its weekly quota of sterilised milk in bottles from the village store. Though the amount was not for publication, I was surprised at the quantity of this type of

milk consumed in the district, presumably on account of its keeping quality.

The only samples of milk taken were those for biological examination, which concerned the test for the tubercle bacillus primarily, and also the presence of B. Abortus. Owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding, our Council did not assist the County Authority in the taking of these samples which resulted in fewer being done than was expected. 29 samples of bulk milk were taken from producer-retailers by the County Council 2 of which were positive for tubercle bacilli.

Following the reports of the two positive examinations, the Divisional Veterinary Inspector visited the farms and after clinical examination of the herds isolated the diseased animals—one in each case—which were slaughtered and found by post mortem examination to be extensively infected with tuberculosis. Suitable action was taken in the two cases about the sale of the milk.

Ice Cream.

The number of manufacturer licences remained at 7 the same as the previous year, but the premises registered for sale only increased by 8 to bring the total to 39. Two of the manufacturers produced small quantities only at irregular intervals.

The premises were reported as being well kept and 4 cases of contraventions found were suitably remedied.

Regular sampling was carried out at such periods when the ice cream was on sale and the results of the examinations according to grading are as shown.

	Grades			
	I	2	3	4
(1) Produced in District	18	1	—	1
(2) Produced ex District	127	25	10	2
Totals	145	26	10	3

The results show a very marked improvement compared with last year when out of a total of 228 samples, 22 were grade 3 and 25 grade 4. The local production continued as excellent as previous years, apart from the single grade 4 blot which came from a firm not so long in production as the others. Neither was there any trouble from the eleven outside producers. Only one of these with a record that read Grade I. 5, Grade III. 2, and Grade IV. 1, fell below the accepted standards. The remaining Grade IV. result came from a highly reputable London firm and it was probable the fault was not in production.

As usual, all concerned with the production and retail were kept informed of the results of sample examination.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and Control Over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during 1950 including Service cases.

Disease	Cases Notified	Admitted Hospital	Case rates 1,000 of population
Measles	316	—	17.0 (14.07)
Whooping Cough	48	—	2.58 (3.87)
Pneumonia	11	—	0.59 (0.99)
Scarlet Fever	16	1	0.86 (1.11)
Poliomyelitis (non paralytic)	1	1	0.05 (0.05)
Dysentery	2	2	
Gastro Enteritis	8	—	
Glandular Fever	1	1	
Erysipelas	2	—	
Totals	405	5	

There were no deaths from infectious diseases.

If the measles cases are taken from the above list the numbers of the remainder followed the usual pattern, except that the Scarlet Fever notifications were very much less than the previous year. The measles outbreak was mainly confined to the South East parishes for the first two months of the year before its gradual spread north and westwards about the end of March. The peak periods of the outbreaks were from mid February to mid April and sporadic cases were notified up to the end of June. Whooping Cough, which never reached epidemic proportions chiefly affected the Tetney area and most of the cases occurred during September and October. The single case of Poliomyelitis was a Service case.

There were no cases of food poisoning identified as such. The cases of dysentery reported were one of *Shigella Sonne* and the other a single case of *Salm*; typhi-murium occurring in a household. In December an epidemic form of gastro-enteritis started over a wideish area for which no cause could be assigned, although each case was fully investigated immediately reported. Unfortunately the majority of the patients did not consult their doctors until about the second day of the illness, and by the

time specimens of stools were obtained the bacteriological examinations were negative. The disease had a very abrupt onset with severe vomiting or diarrhoea, or both, which lasted for an average of three days. The outbreak which also affected adjoining districts showed no signs of abating at the end of the year, but there was no indication that its causation was due to infected food.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination against Smallpox

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for supplying the following figures giving the result of prophylactic measures against diphtheria and smallpox.

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation.

(1)	Number of children under 5 years of age immunised during 1951	...	...	153
(2)	Number of children between 5 and 14 years immunised during 1951	...	...	61
(3)	Booster doses during 1951	...	...	308

(b) Vaccinations anti Smallpox.

Ages in years	0	1-4	5-14	15+	Total
Primary Vaccinations	34	33	6	18	91
Re Vaccinations	1	—	1	13	15

Although the number of primary immunisations done in the under five years group was better than for the previous two years, the total in this group represented only half the live births of the preceding year which is far below the safety target of 75%. The Health Visitors state they are always more concerned about the procrastinators than with the relatively small number of refusals, and this is more evident when there is no Welfare Centre within easy distance. Both the primary immunisations in children over the age of five years and the booster doses given were considerably more than in recent years.

The number of vaccinations against smallpox also showed an increase on the previous year of 19 primary vaccinations and 4 revaccinations but a glance at the total numbers indicates how far they fall short of their desired relationship with the child population.

Tuberculosis : New Cases and Mortality during 1951.

			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...						
1	...	...				1				
5	...	...		1		2				
15	...	...	1		1					
25	...	...						
35	...	...						
45	...	...					1			
55	...	...				1				
65+	...	...						
Totals			1	1	1	4	1	—	—	—

This represents the smallest number of pulmonary cases notified and the fewest number of deaths in any year for the past ten years, and so far as records are available, for any year previous to that.

By reason of improvements to matters affecting environmental health and of therapeutic measures, the national death rate of this disease has been showing a marked decline, but unfortunately there are no grounds for optimistically expecting that the pattern of the above figures will be maintained.

Appendix.

Water and Sewage Analysis.

W. W. TAYLOR

1, Regent Street,
Nottingham.
16th July, 1951.

Report on Analyses of Waters.
Received 12th, July, 1951, from Louth Rural District Council.
Mark: Grimoldby and District Waters.
These samples contain per million parts :

	Grimoldby	Binbrook
Total Solids dried at 180°C.	280 00	280.00
Suspended Matter	absent	absent
Chlorides as chlorine	14.20	17.80

Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrate	absent	3.00
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrite	0.011	absent
Free Ammonia	0.080	0.068
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.004	0.012
Temporary Hardness	200.00	150.00
Permanent Hardness	0.00	70.00
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. @ 80°F. from N/80 KMnO ₄	0.00	0.080
pH value	7.90	7.20
Appearance	clear & bright	clear & bright
Odour	None	None
Taste and Colour	Normal	Normal
Heavy Metals	absent	absent
Free Chlorine	absent	absent

At the time of sampling these waters were of suitable chemical quality for human consumption, domestic use and dairy purposes, provided that recent bacteriological examinations have proved satisfactory.

W. W. TAYLOR.

Report on Analysis of Sewage Effluents.

Received 4th April, 1951, from the Louth Rural District Council.
Mark: Binbrook Sewage Effluent and Manby Sewage Effluent.

These effluents contain per 100,000 parts:

	Binbrook	Manby
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	66.00	66.00
Suspended matter	1.60	2.00
Chlorides as Chlorine	7.46	6.39
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.67	absent
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.060	0.050
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.120	0.080
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.096	0.040
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 KMnO ₄ in (a) 3 minutes	0.32	0.400
(b) 4 hours @ 80°F.	0.97	1.000
pH Value	7.20	7.30
5 days Biological Oxygen Demand at 65°F.	1.30	1.50
5 days Incubation Test at 80°F.	Stable	Stable

Observations.

These sewage effluents satisfied all the accepted standards of purity for effluents suitable for free discharge into inland waters and can be regarded as of satisfactory chemical quality.

W. W. TAYLOR.

